What is the Gateway to Physics and Astronomy?

The Gateway to Physics and Astronomy is an alternative entry route to a BSc or MPhys degree in Physics or Astrophysics at the University of St Andrews.

The programme offers an interactive and tailored first year, focused fully on the study of Physics, Astrophysics and Mathematics. It provides a highly supportive learning environment with approximately 30 contact hours per week in the first year and includes tailored academic and pastoral support for students. Students also benefit from small class sizes.

Students enrolled via the Gateway programme study alongside other first year physicists and mathematicians, as well as undertaking Gateway-only modules. These modules are specifically designed for Gateway students; they provide a highly interactive first year course in physics, mathematics and study skills.

After successfully completing their first year, students enrolled via the Gateway will then progress to second year of the standard BSc or MPhys degrees offered within the School of Physics & Astronomy, which include Theoretical Physics, Physics, Astrophysics and joint degrees with Mathematics.

What are the entrance requirements?
Applicants should be predicted – or have achieved – grades of at least BBBB at Scottish Higher, including Mathematics and Physics. These may be over two sittings where necessary.

Potential applicants should contact the University’s Admissions team to determine their eligibility and are also encouraged to make informal contact with admissions staff in the School of Physics & Astronomy. Please see overleaf for contact details.

Scholarships
There are a number of scholarships available for students on our Gateway programmes, including a number specifically for Gateway to Physics and Astronomy students. We would highly encourage potential students to look at the information available on the website or ask a member of Admissions or School staff for further details.

www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/ug-fees-and-funding/scholarships
Structure of BSc Physics and Astronomy (Gateway) programme

First year
- Gateway Physics Skills
- Gateway Maths
- Physics 1A and 1B
- Maths

Second year
- Physics
- Maths
- Astrophysics, Maths or other

Third year
- Physics, Astrophysics or Mathematics and Physics

Fourth year
- Physics, Astrophysics or Mathematics and Physics

Other pathways may be possible, and it is also possible to proceed to an Integrated Masters degree

What’s next?

Who can apply?
The programme is open to talented and enthusiastic students from the UK who meet some or all of the University’s Widening Participation criteria:

- Eligibility for Education Maintenance Allowance
- Eligibility for free school meals
- Be in the first generation of their family to go to university
- Be looked after (or have been looked after) as a result of a local authority order
- You are a young carer
- Reside in an area of socio-economic disadvantage
- Attend a school with low progression to Higher Education

How can I apply?
Applications are made through UCAS using the relevant course code:

- Physics and Astronomy (Gateway BSc): FH31
- Physics and Astronomy (Gateway MPhys): FH3C

Suitable applicants may be invited to St Andrews in February or March to discuss their application with admissions staff in the School of Physics & Astronomy before offers are made.

Decisions are made based on a judgement of potential to succeed academically on the programme, taking into account the background, academic record and personal circumstances of the applicant.
Curriculum Development
As a research intensive institution, the University ensures that its teaching references the research interests of its staff, which may change from time to time. As a result, programmes are regularly reviewed with the aim of enhancing students' learning experience. Our approach to course revision is described at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/teaching-and-learning/policies/course-revision-protocol.pdf

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